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lands. The inhabitants of Brecknockshire are active, ardent, and industrious, and in a progressive state of civilization, the county being intersected by good roads, a navigable canal, and a rail-way. The town of Brecon, or Aberhonddy, is well situated in the centre of the county, the other towns are small; Hay, on the junction of the county with Radnorshire or Herefordshire, built on the edge of the former county; Trecastle on the Carmarthen road, and the pleasant town of Crickhowel on the Monmouth road.

The principal rivers are the Wye and the Usk; the former runs down from Rayader, having its source near to that of the Severn, in Plynlymon, and parts the counties of Radnor and Brecon from nearly the extremity of the latter on the north-west to the confines of Herefordshire. The Usk takes its rise at the western extremity of the county and runs by Brecon, where it receives the streams of Tarall and Honddy, and, then increasing as it proceeds eastward, it passes Crickhowel, soon after which, receiving the Grwynau and other streams, it enters Monmouthshire, by which time it becomes a fine river, though inferior to the Wye. It runs by the town of Usk or Brynbica, and passes through Caerleon, the ancient seat of Arthur's glory, the Silurian capital; it then becomes navigable, and from thence to Newport, and seven miles below, where it loses itself in the Bristol Channel, it forms a fine estuary, capable of conveying vessels of the largest burden, far superior to the Avon at Bristol.

Of the different parts of the county, its scenery, and peculiarities, with a description of the county town I shall take farther notice in my next, partly from local knowledge and partly from the ingenious history of Mr. Theophilus Jones, a name familiar to all lovers of Cambrian literature.

I am, Sir, respectfully,

IEUAN.

LETTER II.

Hay—Glasbury—Scenery on the Wye—Country Seats.

SIR,—I shall begin my description of Brecknockshire on the north-east, where you enter the county either by crossing the Wye from Radnorshire over a good stone bridge, or from the

Hereford road by crossing a small brook into the town of Hay, a scattered place, containing some good houses and in the midst of a fine country. The English farmers give it the name of the Welsh Hay, though I assure you the inhabitants have now no cause to be distinguished by such an appellation for any partiality to the Welsh language, which they have altogether renounced. The Castle was, at one time, a place of consequence, and has still an imposing appearance. The road to Brecon is highly improved, and coaches run from thence through this town to Hereford and Worcester for London.

About three miles from Hay is Glasbury, part of which lies on one side the Wye and part on the other. The view from either side is highly pleasing as you travel along. Turn off on the left hand, and you may pass the village of Llanigon and go by Tregoid, Lord Hereford's house, to Talgarth, or, if you choose to ascend to the Black Mountains, you have a fine view of the Wye with the fertile vale through which it sweeps its course, which is well worth a description from an able hand. When at Glasbury, cross the bridge, and pass through the main body of the village, which the river separates from the church on the Brecon road, and ascend the gently rising eminences and you can take a survey of the country from below Hay to the village of Lyswan. The scene is grand and sublime and the boast of this part of Wales, the soil not being surpassed by any in the Principality. "The prospect," says Mr. Jones, "from both sides of the Wye, particularly from Penylan, and Maeslwch (the seat of Walter Wilkins, Esq. M.P.), are as beautiful as imagination can paint; whether the eye be directed up or down the river, picturesque objects present themselves, though of a very different nature. Below, looking from Penylan, are the long wooden bridge at Glasbury, the luxuriant pastures and fertile banks of the Wye, and, at a little distance to the north-east, is a gentle rising ascent, thickly interspersed with wood, among which are apple, pear, and cherry trees, which, when in full bloom, improve the scene and complete the landscape of a highly-cultivated country. The view upwards, consisting of a long reach of the Wye, the village of Llysuan and the abrupt ascent to Craig Cai, with a distant view of the towering Brecon Beacons, forms a picture differing totally in the general features from the former, yet possessing great beauties, improved by the contrast."

Among the seats of the neighbourhood are—Gwernyved, Col. Wood's, M. P., an old mansion of the Williams family, one of whom, Sir Henry Williams, had the honour of entertaining King Charles I., having conducted him from Brecknock Priory ; The Lodge, Henry Allen, Esq. Barrister ; Tylau Glas, an old mansion, now a farm-house ; and, by the water-side, the Dolphin, the residence of the benevolent Miss Hughes. On the bank, near the bridge, are Mr. Morgan's residence and extensive wool warehouse, and, near it, a charming spot occupied by Mr. Morgan, Jun. On the opposite side is Maeslwch, the seat of the opulent Walter Wilkins, Esq. M.P. for Radnorshire, and at a short distance to the west of it, in the bottom, Woodlands, the seat of Walter Wilkins, Esq. Jun. The church is equal to most country churches, but is particularly distinguished by the piety of its clergyman and a numerous and respectable congregation.

From Glasbury the traveller may proceed to Brecon, through Brynllys village, or strike across the county, through Talgarth, Trevecka, and Langorse, by Llinsavaddan* ; a fine ride through a pleasant part of the country.

By pursuing that route you soon come into the great road from Brecon to Monmouth. Near to Brynllys is Tregunter (Gunterston), once the residence of one of the Norman chiefs, and now the seat of W. A. Maddocks, Esq. M. P., who married Mrs. Gwynne, co-heiress with her eldest sister Miss Hughes. This is one of the finest seats in the county. On the Brecon road is Tre Philip and farther on Pontywall.

In proceeding along the banks of the Wye to Builth, the ride is highly interesting by Pipton and Llyswan, passing the Derw, or *Y Dderw*, absurdly spelt *Therow*. This last was formerly the mansion of the Morgan family, the heiress of which house was married into the Tredegar family, now represented by Sir Charles Morgan, Bart. M. P. A little farther on is Langoed, the seat of Mrs. Macnamara, as mortgagee in possession from the late Sir Edward Williams, Bart.

The view from the opposite side is exceedingly fine, but from either side of the Wye there are many things to admire, rocks, woods and water. The river, one while, forces its passage over the rocks and then fetches a curve, or glides along with a fine

* For an account of the "Legend of Llinsavaddan" see vol. ii. of the CAMBRO-BRITON, p. 400.—ED.

sweep. Drawing near to Builth, the view of Aberedw rocks, the scite of the old castle and the thickly wooded glen, may strike the modern tourist, but the Cambrian sighs when he recalls to his recollection the days of old and the fate of the unfortunate Llywelyn ab Gruffydd.

I am, Sir, your's, &c.

IEUAN.

LETTER III.

Builth—Mineral Waters—Rev. Theophilus Evans—Celebrated Characters—Llywelyn last Prince of Wales.

SIR,—The approach to the little town of Builth is rather striking, and the place itself, contrasted with the generality of small places in the midst of an upland region, has rather a smart and lightsome appearance. Here is a good bridge over the Wye, which forms an addition to the landscape of the country, and gives a kind of dignity to the scenery, which is pleasingly diversified, but cannot boast of the fertility of some other parts of the county, though superior to the soil at the northern extremity, where barren mountains and russet plains continually meet the eye interspersed with a few spots more pleasant.

In the vicinity of Builth are the Park-wells, which afford a mineral water in three different springs, serviceable for internal complaints, and frequented by various invalids in the summer months. In the parish of Llanwrtid there is a spring running over a rich bed of sulphur, first discovered, in the year 1732, by the Rev. Theophilus Evans, author of *Drych y Prif Oesocdd*, and maternal grandfather of the Historian of Brecknockshire.

As this part of Brecknockshire does not possess the most fertile, or the best cultivated, soil, it is pleasing to speak of its intellectual productions. In the parish of Llangammarch lived and died the gentleman just alluded to, and, out of respect to his memory, his ingenious grandson wished his remains to be conveyed there after his decease, (in which his friends complied with his request), and at the same time took care to erect a neat monument to commemorate his worth in the College Church at Brecon. In contemplating the approach of the ensuing *Eisteddvod*, his surviving friends, with regret, think of